ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Approaches for preventing TCP RST attacks and TCP SYN attacks in packet-switched networks are disclosed. In one approach, upon receiving a TCP RST packet, a first endpoint node challenges the second endpoint node in the then-current connection using an acknowledgement message. If the connection is genuinely closed, the second endpoint node responds with a RST packet carrying an expected next sequence value. The first endpoint node takes no action if no RST packet is received. Thus, attacks are thwarted because an attacker does not receive the acknowledgment message and therefore cannot provide the exact expected next sequence value.

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